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8 April 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Negotiation Developments

1. The following developments on the negotiation front were surfaced at the Monday, 8 April non-group meeting:

a. An official reply has been received from Hanoi, via Vientiane, acknowledging receipt of our official message (also sent through Vientiane). The reply (Vientiane 5697) ignores our Geneva suggestion, proposes Phnom Penh as the site of the preliminary talks, and says the DRV cannot convene by the 8th.

b. The fact of the DRV reply (let alone the text) has not yet been communicated to the GVN or the other troop-contributing nations and probably will not be so communicated before it is announced publicly in Washington (probably some time today, 8 April).

c. In going back to the DRV, we are going to demur on Phnom Penh and, instead, propose Rangoon, New Delhi, Djakarta or Vientiane. We are not insisting on Geneva because the President does not like Geneva. On balance, the State Department prefers Rangoon, where Ne Win can keep the press contingent down. (Delhi has logistic advantages but it also has Bowles, Indians and too many reporters.)

d. The tentative roster of the U.S. delegation for the preliminary talks is:

Governor Harriman

Mr. Daniel Davidson (the Governor's Special Assistant)

An as yet unnamed French/English interpreter. (The

Governor wants Fred Flott, Mr. Habib does not.)

Either Mr. Holbrooke or Mr. Habib (but apparently not both).

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A Vietnamese language officer, probably
Mr. John Negropono.
Mr. William Jordan, representing the White
House, who will also serve as press officer.
General Andrew Goodpaster
Mr. Paul Warnke

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